

REMARKS

Status Of Application

Claims 1 and 11-22 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,978,020 to Watanabe et al. (hereinafter the "Watanabe Patent").

Claims 11-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,111,605 to Suzuki (hereinafter the "Suzuki Patent").

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 11, and 16 have been amended to more clearly recite at least one of the distinguishing characteristics of Applicants' invention. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejections

The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Watanabe Patent, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Claim 1, as amended, recites at least one of the distinguishing characteristics of the present invention, namely, that *a storage section stores the taken image and the image processor generates image data from the taken image.*

The Watanabe Patent has been cited as fully disclosing Applicants' invention. The Watanabe Patent, however, fails to disclose the above-recited feature of Applicants' invention. The Watanabe Patent assertedly discloses a system in which a camera unit 1 is connected to a computer 3, which includes a display 7. As described in the section of the Watanabe Patent cited by the Office Action, when the camera unit 1 is connected to the

computer 3, the camera unit 1 is able to determine the resolution and display speed of the display 7. (The Watanabe Patent, column 11, line 30 – column 12, line 15.) The camera unit 1 receives an image and adjusts the number of pixels stored (temporarily) in the FIFO memory 14 (which simply acts as a buffer) to match the number of pixels and the display speed of the display 7. (The Watanabe Patent, column 11, lines 39-56.) The images are simply transferred from the FIFO memory 14 to the display 7 via the computer 3. Thus, the images are only stored in the resolution (i.e., the number of pixels) that is the same as the display 7. Thus, the camera unit 1 does not store image data beyond the capability of the display 7 to which the camera unit 1 is connected.

In contrast, Applicants' camera as recited in amended claim 1 comprises a storage section for storing the taken image in a first format. When the camera in Applicants' invention is connected to an external device, the camera determines the desired format (i.e., a second format) and *generates* the image to be outputted accordingly. Notably, the Watanabe Patent merely transfers the image from a buffer (FIFO memory 14) as opposed to Applicants' invention which stores the taken image in a first format and *generates* an image in a second format to be outputted to the external apparatus. This feature allows the camera to output the same taken image to different external devices at differing resolutions. (See, e.g., Application as filed, page 11, lines 12-20.) This feature is clearly not anticipated by the Watanabe Patent.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Watanabe Patent, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 11-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Suzuki Patent, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Independent claims 11 and 16 recite at least one of the distinguishing characteristics of the present invention. Specifically, claim 11 recites a camera comprising *a controller for transitioning the camera into a state in order to output image data through said connector when said detector detects that said connection device is attached*

to said connector. Claim 16 recites a camera system wherein *the camera system is transitioned into a state in order to output stored image data to the external apparatus.*

The Suzuki Patent has been cited as fully disclosing Applicants' invention. The Suzuki Patent, however, fails to disclose the above-recited feature of Applicants' invention. The Suzuki Patent assertedly discloses a camera 101 that is connectable to a printer 301 via an I/F device 201. Upon connection of the printer 301 to the camera 101, the camera 101 may output data to the printer 301. However, the Suzuki Patent is silent as to the camera being *transitioned into a state in order to output stored image data* to the printer 301 upon detecting that the camera 101 is connected to the printer 301.

In contrast, Applicants' amended claims 11 and 16 recite that the camera and the system, respectively, *transitions into a state in order to output stored image data* to the external apparatus when the detector detects that the connection device is attached to the connector. Therefore, because the Suzuki Patent does not disclose this feature, claims 11 and 16 are deemed to be in condition for allowance over the Suzuki Patent.

Claims 12-15 and 17-22 depend from and further limit independent claims 11 and 16, respectively, in a patentable sense and, for this reason and the reasons set forth above, are also deemed to be in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 11-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Suzuki Patent, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims.

Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

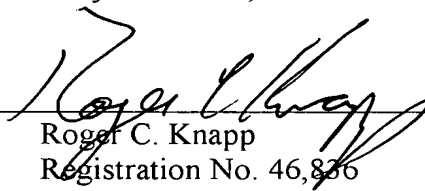
Any fee required by this document other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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**APPENDIX****VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

The following is a marked-up version of the changes to the claims which are being made in the attached response to the Office Action dated August 22, 2002.

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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Twice Amended) A camera having an output section for outputting image data representative of a taken image to an external apparatus, comprising:

a storage section for storing the taken image in a first format;

a communicator for communicating with said external apparatus; and

an image processor for generating image data in a second format from the taken image to be outputted to said external apparatus based on a characteristic of said external apparatus, said image processor obtaining information on said characteristic based on a communication result;

wherein said external apparatus is one of a display apparatus and a personal computer.

11. (Twice Amended) A camera which can store data of a taken image in a memory and can output the stored image data to an external apparatus through a detachably attachable connection device, said camera comprising:

a connector for attaching said connection device;

a detector for detecting whether or not said connection device is attached to said connector; and

a controller for transitioning the camera into a state in order to output [permitting the] image data [to be outputted] through said connector when said detector detects that said connection device is attached to said connector[, and for inhibiting the image data from being outputted through said connector when said detector detects that said connection device is not attached to said connector].

16. (Once Amended) A camera system which can store image data of a taken image in a memory and output stored image data to an external apparatus through a detachably attachable connection device, said camera system comprising:

a connector for attaching said connection device; and

a detector for detecting whether or not said connection device is attached to said connector, whereby, when said detector detects that said connection device is attached to said connector, [a condition of] the camera system[, which is responsive to an output of said detector, permits stored image data to be outputted to the external apparatus through the connector and the connection device] is transitioned into a state in order to output stored image data to the external apparatus.